

These brave journalists continue to be imprisoned, while others have been released on bail awaiting trial.

We will continue to keep Jimmy in our prayers and urge that he be released along with the other Hong Kong journalists and democracy advocates unjustly imprisoned.

HONORING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF BENJAMIN V. GOODELL VFW POST 552

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Benjamin V. Goodell VFW Post 552 as it celebrates its 90th anniversary. This tremendous milestone is worthy of commendation.

On July 31, 1931, twenty members of the Lincoln Park community came together to establish VFW Post 552 in old Lafayette School. In the following years, the post quickly flourished and changed locations to accommodate its expanding membership, especially in the aftermath of World War II. Post 552 was the fastest-growing post in the state, with peak membership of around 700 members by 1975.

Throughout the years, Post 552 has celebrated many victories, held countless events, and provided invaluable support to our community's devoted veterans. For nine decades, Post 552's leadership has made a profound difference in Lincoln Park and Southeast Michigan. It played a critical role in establishing the local VA Hospitals, coordinating the annual Lincoln Park Memorial Day Parade, and sponsoring a number of efforts that have made the city a better place. Post 552 has earned a host of accolades and awards in recognition of these achievements, and I am proud that our community is home to such a dedicated and patriotic group.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Benjamin V. Goodell Post 552 on its 90th anniversary. Post 552 is a pillar of the community, and we are grateful for the important role it has played in veterans' lives throughout the past nine decades. Please join me in celebrating Post 552 on this special occasion. We all are looking forward to celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2031.

IN RECOGNITION OF NICOLE MONTNA VAN VLECK, 2021 RICE FARMER OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I rise in recognition of my constituent and friend Nicole Montna Van Vleck. Nicole was recently awarded the Rice Farmer of the Year award by Horizon Ag, Rice Farming, and USA Rice.

The Montna Family began their rice operation in the late 1930s in Sutter County, California. By the 1970s Nicole's father, Al Montna, took over the ranch from his parents Dutch and Emma. Eventually, Al sold much of the land to his daughters Nicole and Michelle.

Nicole currently serves as president and CEO of Montna Farms. Montna Farms produces predominately short-grain rice, that is milled in Williams, California and then distributed throughout the United States and internationally.

Nicole makes conservation a priority at Montna Farms. In 2000, a working lands easement was implemented on the ranch to preserve the Pacific Flyway. Nicole and Montna Farms has also worked in partnership with numerous environmental organizations, such as Nature Conservancy, California Waterfowl Association, the National Audubon Society, California Trout and Point Blue, to ensure lands and wildlife are protected in and around their operation.

Nicole has also dedicated herself to the rice industry by serving on numerous boards and committees, including: chair of the California Rice Industry Association, immediate past chair of California Producers Group and USA Rice Farmers, California Rice Commission, USA Rice Federation, the Rice Foundation, past chair of USA Rice Communication Committee, past co-chair Rice Sustainability and Competitiveness Task Force, past chair of state Farm Service Agency and State Fair ag advisory board, Northern California Water Association, UC Davis Dean's advisory board, and River Valley Community Bank board.

I congratulate Nicole on her achievement of Rice Farmer of the Year and I look forward to continue to work with her to support the California rice industry.

KAZAKHSTAN'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, on December 16, 2021, the Republic of Kazakhstan will celebrate its 30th year of independence from the former Soviet Union. I congratulate President Kassim-Jomart Tokayev and Kazakhstan's people for the notable progress they have made as a nation in that short period of time.

Strategically located between Europe, China, Russia, and the Middle East, Kazakhstan has been a global crossroads for centuries. Clearly, its place in the world today is more significant than ever. Kazakhstan's vibrant economy—the largest by far in Central Asia—enhances the country's strategic importance.

One of Kazakhstan's greatest and most enduring achievements since independence has been its renunciation of nuclear weapons. Upon dissolution of the Soviet Union, Kazakhstan possessed the 4th largest nuclear arsenal in the world, and since then has maintained a consistent policy advocating nuclear non-proliferation. In 2006, Kazakhstan joined with the four other central Asian countries to sign The Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty, committing to ban production, acquisition, or deployment of nuclear weapons across their territory. The Republic continues to lead in non-proliferation efforts.

Kazakhstan has been a good friend to the United States over these thirty years, standing with us after 9/11, supporting our military ef-

forts both in Iraq and in Afghanistan, and working actively with the U.S. and other countries to counter global terrorism. Since 2013, Kazakhstan has been an active participant in the CS+1 format, which is the platform for dialogue and cooperation between the U.S. and the five Central Asian nations. Further, in 2018, the United States and Kazakhstan entered into an Enhanced Strategic Partnership.

In just 30 years, Kazakhstan has achieved great things and has taken its place in the international community of nations. I appreciate the engagement of Kazakhstan with the U.S. on defense, security, counterterrorism, and on many other areas of mutual interest. I offer my best wishes to President Tokayev, to Ambassador Ashikbayev, and to the people of Kazakhstan on their Independence Day.

RECOGNIZING THE LATE YANDY CHIRINO

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, from the 24th District of the great state of Florida, I rise today to recognize and honor the late Yandy Chirino, a police officer, beloved son, brother, friend and part of the 5000 Role Models of Excellence family.

Whereas, Yandy Chirino was born on March 14, 1993, in Havana, Cuba. He migrated to Miami, Florida, with his parents as a young child and became a United States citizen at age ten; and

Whereas, Officer Chirino graduated in 2011 from Coral Park High School, where he was inducted into the 5000 Role Models of Excellence. In 2015, he went on to study criminal justice at Florida International University and earned a bachelor's degree. He also was an MVP athlete who played volleyball, soccer, baseball, and basketball; and

Whereas, after graduating from the police academy, in 2017, Officer Chirino fulfilled his dream of becoming a police officer when he joined the Hollywood Police Department. Throughout his career, Officer Chirino earned many commendations, and he was recognized for his exceptional teamwork and dedication. In June 2020, he was named "Officer of the Month." He served the Hollywood Police Department with pride and professionalism, and had an incredible work ethic; and

Whereas, Officer Chirino was adventurous. His YouTube videos show him paragliding in Colombia, flying a Cessna airplane in South Florida, and jet-skiing in Lake Powell, a reservoir on the border of Utah and Arizona; and

Whereas, Officer Chirino leaves to cherish his fond memories his parents, sister, two nephews, girlfriend, friends, all of fellow officers at the Hollywood Police Department and his 5000 Role Models of Excellence family; and now, therefore be it

Resolved, That I, FREDERICA S. WILSON, a member of the United States House of Representatives representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, am honored to recognize the late Officer Yandy Chirino for his commitment, dedication and service to our community.